THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

Tuesday, the 22nd February 1955.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Posting of husband and wife employees in the same place.

* 169 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the orders of the Government with regard to the posting of husband and wife employees in Government and Local Board Services to one and the same place; and

(*b*) whether there is ban on the posting of such employees to one and the same office or institution?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" (*a*) So far as employees in Government service are concerned there is an order to the effect that, when a request is made by either the husband or the wife, both of whom are in Government service, for transfer to the station where the other is employed, it should be allowed if the transfer is permissible and can be made without prejudice to the public interest. This order also provides for transfers of either the husband or the wife to another station whenever the exigencies of service so require. No orders similar to the one referred to above applicable to employees in the Local Boards' Service have been issued.

" (*b*) There is no ban on posting of such employees to one and the same office or institution provided it is permissible according to the Service Rules governing their respective posts."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" With reference to the answer of the Hon. Minister to clause (*a*) of the main question, may I know whether the Government would be pleased to review the position and issue strict orders for the enforcement of the rule with regard to posting of these people in the same place as there are several instances in which they are kept separate in spite of the requests of the parties concerned? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think a general review will be necessary. If the hon. Member could bring to the notice of the Government any of these cases Government will look into them."

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" While even the natural law demands that both husband and wife should be together, why should the Government of Madras think of separating them in Government service? " (Laughter.)

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, Government do not ever think of separating husband and wife. But I do not know whether the natural law demands that both husband and wife should be in service." (Renewed laughter.)

Sri K. BHASHYAM :—" Are the exigencies of service more important than the husband and wife being together? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. I am afraid it is so. Exigencies of service are more important. That does not necessarily mean that husband and wife should be separate. But, they will have to choose as to whether the husband should be in service or the wife should be in service."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I request the Hon. Minister to consider the adoption of the same rule relating to Government servants in the case of local boards' servants also? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Government will examine that request, Sir. If I remember aright, long ago a rule was observed by the local boards particularly with reference to teachers, according to which both husband and wife have to be posted as far as possible in the same place. Again, there must be a girls' school in a place where there is a boys' school."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" While posting them in the same place, will the Government consider the desirability of banning their posting in the same office or institution in order to avoid collusive tendencies in official matters? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think it is right to suspect that there may be collusive tendency if both husband and wife were posted in the same office. We have got very great traditions of husband and wife taking very independent attitude without reference to their relationship."

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Will not the posting of husband and wife in the same place bring about inefficiency? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not at all think so, Sir."

Sri A. GAJAPATHI NAYAGAR :—" Can this State be called a Welfare State if the Government post husband and wife in different places? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is not a question of posting husband and wife to different places. If both the husband and wife choose to enter service, they will have

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to be prepared for separation. I know there are several husbands and wives who do not mind separation and they prefer separation in service to being together in domestic life.''

Sub-Inspectors belonging to Washerman and Barber communities.

* 170 *Q.*—Sri M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the numuber of Sub-Inspectors belonging to Washerman and Barber communities appointed in the Police department since 1947 ; and

(*b*) how many of them were promoted as Circle Inspectors or otherwise?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—'' (*a*) One (belonging to the Barber community).

'' (*b*) Nil.''

Sri M. ETHIRAJULU :—'' அரசாங்க உத்தியோக விஷயங்களில், மிகவும் பிற்பட்ட வகுப்பினரான சலவைத் தொழிலாளர், ஷவரத் தொழிலாளர், மீன் பிடிப்பவர் இவர்கள் குறைந்த எண்ணிக்கை உடையவர்கள்தான் சர்க்கார் உத்தியோகத்திலிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியும் ஆகவே, இப்பேர்பட்ட இனத்தவர்களுக்கு தகுதியும் திறமையும் தேர்ச்சியும் இருக்கும் பட்சத்தில், உயர்ந்தபதவிகளுக்குத் தனிச்சலுகைகாட்ட அரசாங்கம் முன் வருமா ?''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' So far as direct recruitment is concerned, backward communities as such have this facility. A certain percentage of seats is reserved. If it is a question of promotion, that is governed only by merits. Government cannot undertake to look into every sub-community in the category of backward community, nor can they undertake to see the representation of particular communities and sub-communities in the matter of promotion to services.''

Sri K. BHASHYAM :—'' Has this been for their good or for their harm? ''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' It is for the communities concerned to decide whether it is for their good or for their harm.''

Sri A. SUBRAMANYAM :—'' இவர்கள் மிகவும் பிற்பட்ட இனத்தவராகயிருப்பதால், இவர்களை ' ஷெட்யூல்டு வகுப்பினர் ' ஜாப்தாவில் சேர்க்க முடியுமா ?''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Sir, the Fishermen community has been representing that it must be treated on a par with the Scheduled Castes. That perhaps deserves some consideration. But I do not know whether objection